

ODP 2350-76
16 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller STATINTL
ATTENTION : [REDACTED]
FROM : [REDACTED] STATINTL
Chief, Management Staff, ODP
SUBJECT : DDA Input to November Status Report
on Presidential Management Initiatives

Forwarded herewith is the current status report
for "Alternative Data Processing Equipment," a study
of the potential use of a mimicomputer for information
storage and retrieval.

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[REDACTED] STATINTL

Att: a/s

cc: ✓ C/M&AS/DDA
DD/A/ODP

15 November 1976

November Status ReportF. Alternative Data Processing Equipment (began 1 July 1976)

Currently large scale computer systems are used in a central computer facility to provide computer services to a wide range of applications and users throughout the Agency. Many of the applications can be classified as information storage and retrieval applications. Information storage and retrieval systems have much commonality in the functions that are performed and the ADP techniques that are used to accomplish these functions. When large centralized computers are used for these applications, service to the customers is affected by competition for computer resources, interaction among applications which can slow down response time to one or more users, and occasional system outages. In this study, to be done partly by a contractor, we have selected an appropriate application involving a data base containing information on Special Clearances. Data will be converted for use on a minicomputer, programs will be prepared, and operational tests will be performed and evaluated to determine if the minicomputer can provide greater reliability (i.e., less downtime from system failure) and more effective response time for storage and retrieval functions at less cost.

| <u>Action Steps</u> | <u>Estimated Completion Date</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| a. Complete review of current methods for processing the application. | 31 Jul. 76 | Review completed. The current system (computer programs and operating procedures) has been examined in detail. |
| b. Complete conversion of current data base to suitable form for use with minicomputer. | 31 Oct. 76 | An unclassified subset of the data base was created and loaded into the minicomputer. This data base is now operational. The physical capacity of the minicomputer's disk storage has been reached. Thus, if it were decided (after this test) to use the minicomputer for this particular application, it would be necessary to acquire additional disk storage to accommodate the full data base. |

| <u>Action Steps</u> | <u>Estimated Completion Date</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| c. Complete application programs for minicomputer. | 30 Nov. 76 | The basic application programs to handle all queries are complete. However, it is clear that it would not be practical to produce lengthy monthly reports and certain other large file maintenance processes that are related to this particular application using only the minicomputer. A feasible solution would be to use the minicomputer as a distributed processor for the daily functions of entering data and querying the file, and to call upon a central computer for producing monthly reports. |
| d. Complete operational tests of minicomputer and application programs. | 31 Dec. 76 | |
| e. Complete evaluation and study report. | 31 Jan. 77 | |